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102

# MOVABLE HOG HOUSES

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CONTENTS.


| | Page. | | Page. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Advantages of colony or movable houses... | 2 | The A-shaped house ..... | 6 |
| The box-shaped house ..... | 3 | Bill of materials ..... | 7 |
| Details of construction..... | 4 | Protection from severe weather..... | 8 |
| Bill of materials ..... | 5 | | |


## ADVANTAGES OF COLONY OR MOVABLE HOUSES.

THE SERIOUS DECREASE in hog marketings during 1917 has brought forth a demand that farmers and pig-club members materially increase their swine production to meet the needs of our soldiers and our allies for pork and pork products. Proper housing will be an important factor in such increased production, as it will reduce the amount of feed consumed and will prevent losses from exposure, especially with the early spring litters. In some sections of the country the farmers build larger and more expensive houses than are necessary, but in a great many places too little attention is given to proper houses for swine.

Nearly every farmer producing swine can profitably use one or more movable hog houses. On many farms, especially where the winters are mild, movable hog houses will meet all the needs of the swine for shelter both from the hot sun of summer and the dampness and storm of winter.

The movable or colony hog houses are especially suited to the needs of the farmer just starting in the hog business, and also for pig-club

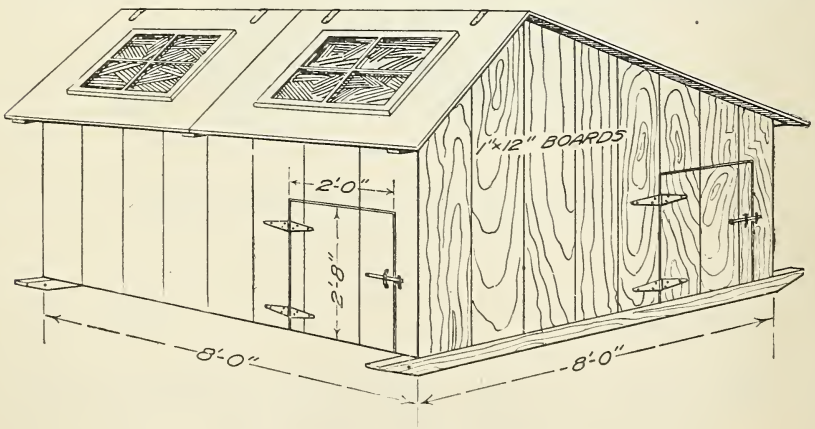


FIG. 1.—Box-type movable hog house, closed.

members. These houses can be moved from field to field as the pigs are changed from one grazing crop to another. Their use makes it easier to keep the hogs healthy, as the house may be moved as soon as one place becomes insanitary or unclean. The movable houses can be built much more cheaply than the larger ones; they can be increased in number as the herd gets larger; and if the farmer is a renter they can be taken with him if he should move.

This circular contains instructions, illustrations, and bills of materials for building two common types of colony houses. The box-shaped house is the more desirable of the two, especially for those who have a sow and litter to care for. This house has an advantage over the A-type house in that it is cooler in summer because the roof is not so near the floor, thus giving more air space. It is also easier to clean, easier to work in, gives better ventilation, and admits more sunlight.

## THE BOX-SHAPED HOUSE.

Figure 1 shows the box-type movable hog house complete and ready for storm at farrowing time. It is assumed that the house will be built facing the south. Nail canvas over the ridge of the house to prevent water from leaking in. The front of the roof is in two sections, both of which lift up as indicated by dash lines in drawing of end framework. With front of roof lifted and with back side opened out as indicated in figure 2, the house serves as a shed roof. When both are in place as in figure 1 the house makes ideal farrowing quarters for March litters. Note the door in the east end (fig. 1). Open this to insure ventilation when the roof and the back side are closed. One half of the front of the roof may be lifted without disturbing the other half. Thus the sow and litter may be sheltered and still have excellent

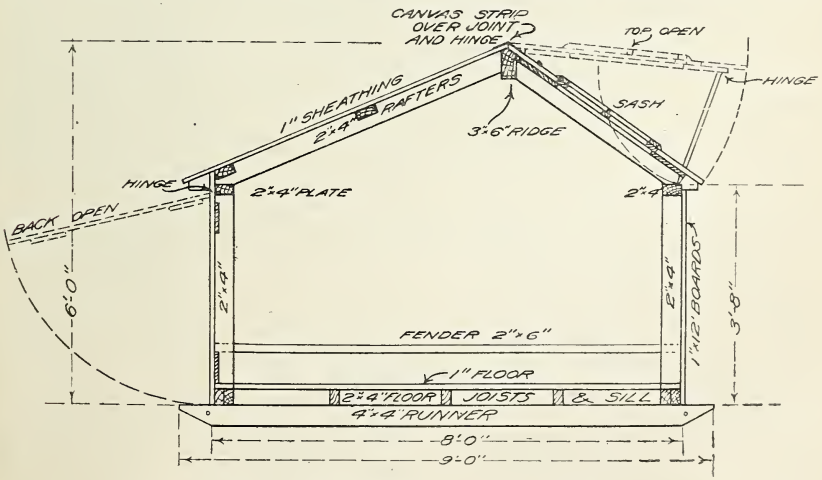


FIG. 2.—West end section of box-type house.

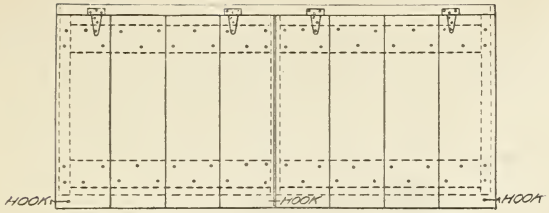


FIG. 3.—Elevation of back of box-type house.

ventilation. In case of storm or extreme weather at farrowing time, hang one or two lighted lanterns in the gable. The young pigs will then be comfortable.

Figure 2 is the west end section. Note the means of holding open the sections of the front of the roof.

Figure 3 shows the elevation of the back side with hinged shutters. Dotted lines indicate framing and shutter battens. The back is hinged as shown in order that the house may be open and cool in summer, thus being adapted for all-the-year use. Diagonal braces on the inside will strengthen the back and thus tend to prevent warping when it is open. When the house is to be used for farrowing, a fender or guard rail should be attached 6 inches from the floor.

Figure 4 illustrates the framing of the front or south side of the house.

## DETAILS OF CONSTRUCTION.

The runners are the foundations of the house and should be of large timber so the building will be well off the ground; 4 by 4 inch pieces are of suitable size. They should be of wood that does not decay easily (fir and cypress are very good). The runners should be 9 feet long and placed 8 feet apart, measuring from outside to outside. The runners should project 6 inches on each side of the completed house, which is 8 feet square.

The next step is to build the framework of the house, which should be of 2 by 4 inch material (except the ridge pole) according to dimensions as given in the various plans. There is a corner post at each corner, and the front and back sides each have a sill at the bottom and a plate at the top. The end rafters are put up as shown in figure 2, and are connected by a ridge pole of 3 by 6 inch material. Each side of the roof should have a rafter in the center, and the back side of the roof should have two 2 by 4 inch planks running across to support the roof. These planks should be placed in notches in the rafters so the roof will fit down flush with the rafters.

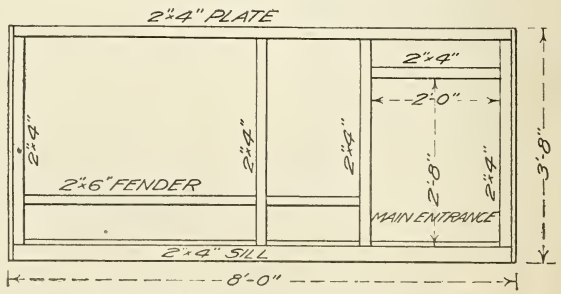


FIG. 4.—Framing of front of box-type house.

A floor is not needed for this house where the winters are mild and there is good soil drainage, as in the Coastal Plains section. If no floor is put in, the house should be placed on a small mound and bedded in with sand to prevent the wind from drawing under, and to insure a dry nest. If a floor is laid it should be of 1-inch material placed on three 2 by 4 inch pieces running across the top of the runners. These should be laid flat. The boards will have to be notched to fit around the corner posts.

The siding and the roof may be of 10-inch ship-lap or of 1 by 12 inch boards, using batten to cover the cracks. Tongue-and-groove flooring gives a warmer but more expensive house. The siding should be put on up and down, as this gives more rigidity to the house. There is a door in the front and one in the east side of the house. These doors should be 24 by 32 inches. The back side of the house is made in one piece and hinged to the plate at the top so that it may be opened when desired. It should be strengthened on the inside with braces running diagonally across from top to bottom. To hold it shut there should be a staple and pin at each side, and to hold it open when required two wires may be fastened on the roof and hooked in eyelets on the back near the bottom. A prop would serve the same purpose but is dangerous, as the sow might knock it from under and cause the back to fall and possibly kill some of the pigs.

The front side of the roof is made in two sections which are hinged to the ridge pole at the top. These may be raised to give ventilation. The southeast section of the roof should have a 1 by 3 inch board firmly screwed to the inner edge, overlapping 1½ inches. This will break the joint between the sections and keep out rain. In opening the roof care should be taken to raise this section first, else the projecting strip will soon be worked loose and become useless. This section would naturally be opened first, as the sow could then have her nest in the tight west side and be sheltered by the southwest section, especially when the weather is not suitable for having both sections open. The windows inserted may be of the cheap kind available at the local lumber yard. A common size for these window sash is 22 by 26 inches. They may be omitted if not desired.

There should be a guard rail or fender around the inside of the house. This is made of a 2 by 6 inch piece fastened edgewise 6 inches from the floor, and is to prevent the sow from lying on her pigs. It is very desirable to paint the house, as this preserves the wood and gives the house a neater and more attractive appearance.

BILL OF MATERIALS.

| Pieces. | Size. | Length. | Use. | Total measurement. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Inches.* | *Feet.* | | *Board feet.* |
| 1 | 4 by 4 | 18 | Runners. | 24 |
| 2 | 2 by 6 | 16 | Guard rails | 32 |

| Pieces. | Size. *Inches.* | Length. *Feet.* | Use. | Total measurement. *Board feet.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 2 by 4 | 16 | Plates, sills, corner posts, roof supports | 43 |
| 1 | 2 by 4 | 18 | Back rafters | 12 |
| 1 | 2 by 4 | 14 | Front rafters | 10 |
| 1 | 3 by 6 | 8 | Ridge pole | 12 |
| 3 | 1 by 4 | 16 | Braces | 16 |
| 9 | 1 by 10 | 14 | Ship-lap siding | 108 |
| 12 | 2 by 10 | 12 | Ship-lap siding | 100 |
| | | | Total (without floor) | 357 |

If the house has a floor, two 2 by 4 inch pieces, 16 feet long, and four 12-inch boards, 16 feet long, will be needed in addition.

HARDWARE, ETC.

2 pairs 6-inch strap hinges for back side.
2 pairs T hinges for roof section.
2 pairs 3-inch butts for doors.
2 4-pane sashes.
Twenty-penny nails.
Ten-penny nails.
2 large staples and pins for holding the back shut.
2 outside latches for doors.
4 hooks and eyes for roof.
Screws for hinges and strip on roof section.

## THE A-SHAPED HOUSE.

The A-shaped house, shown in figure 5, is 8 feet wide and 6 feet from back to front. The foundation is made of three runners of 4 by 4 inch

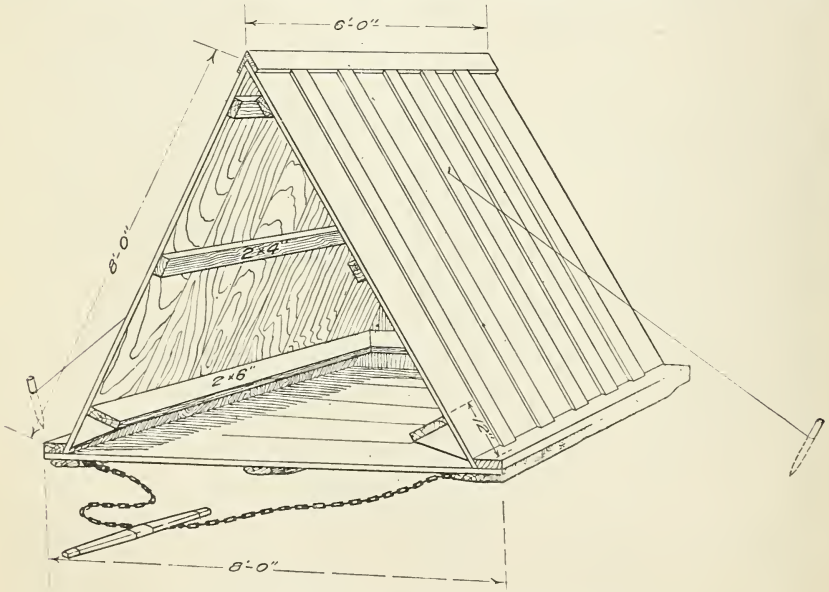


FIG. 5.—An A-shaped movable hog house with open front.

material or straight poles. A floor of 1-inch material is nailed to the three runners. Pieces of 2 by 4 inch are nailed along the outside of the floor to keep the sides from spreading at the bottom.

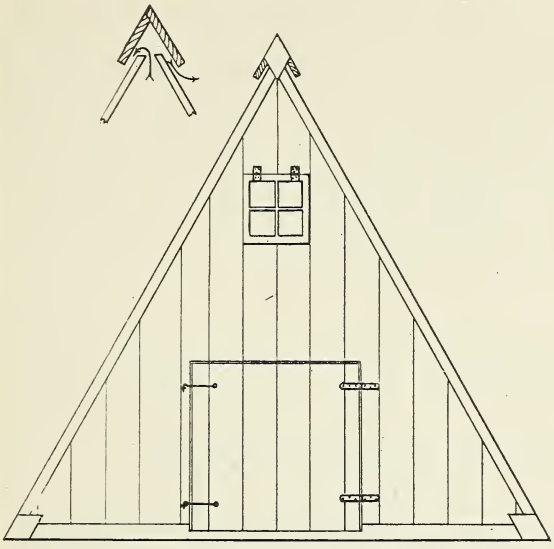

FIG. 6.—Where the winters are cold the A-shaped house should have a closed front.

The sides are built on the ground and then set up. Each side is made of six 1 by 12 inch boards 8 feet long. These are held together by two 2 by 4 inch crosspieces, one about 9 inches from the top and the other about 3½ feet. About 10 inches from the bottom of the sides a 2 by 6 inch piece is nailed edgewise and braced at the ends by blocks as shown in the illustration. This piece will act as a guard rail and prevent the sow from lying on her pigs. The two sides are set up and fastened together by a saddle of two 1 by 6 inch boards as shown in the illustration (fig. 5).

There should also be a board nailed across the front to help hold the sides. As a framework for the back, 2 by 4 inch pieces are placed upright 2 feet from each side and nailed to the floor and sides. A crosspiece is put in 2 feet from the floor. The back boards are nailed to this framework and to the sides. A guard rail should be placed across the back the same as on the sides. The sides should be fastened firmly together so that no storm will blow them down. The cracks should be covered with batten. Guy wires as shown in figure 5 should be put in place to keep the house from blowing over if in an exposed position.

BILL OF MATERIALS.

| Pieces. | Size. | Length. | Use. | Total measurement. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Inches.* | *Feet.* | | *Board feet.* |
| 13 | 1 by 12 | 16 | Sides, back, and floor | 208 |
| 9 | ..... | 16 | Batten | .. |
| 4 | 2 by 4 | 12 | Framework | 32 |
| 2 | 2 by 6 | 12 | Guard rail | 32 |
| 3 | ..... | .. | Saddleboard | 8 |
| 1 | 1 by 6 | 16 | Poles for runners | .. |

Total 280 board feet of lumber, 144 feet batten, 3 poles, and the necessary nails.

The A-type house is very good for a few fattening pigs and may be used to house a sow and litter in warmer climates. In sections where cold winters are experienced the front should be closed in as shown in figure 6. This will make a good shelter for a sow and her spring litter. If the front is to be closed this should be decided before the house is built. This is necessary for two reasons. First, provision for ventilation should be made, which can be done by inserting 3 or 4 6-inch pieces of 2 by 4 inch material at the apex and spiking the sides firmly to them, thus providing a series of 2-inch spaces for ventilation. The saddleboards are raised as shown in figure 6. Second, the insertion of the blocks to provide for ventilation will change the angle at which the boards for the back are cut. The boards for the back should run up and down.

In building the front proceed the same as with the back. The door should be 22 inches by 3 feet. If the front is closed the window in the front should be on hinges so that it may be opened to give ventilation.

## PROTECTION FROM SEVERE WEATHER.

No matter which type of house is built, the pig-club member or the farmer should realize that in the sections where the winter is mild there is no need of planning to make the house warm, but where the weather is cold and there are heavy snow and wind storms the house should be made as warm as possible. A covering of tar or roofing paper carefully put on will keep out much wind and cold. This should be done in the North if the house is to be used as a farrowing house. Banking the sides with straw, leaves, or manure to a height of 1 to 2 feet will also assist greatly in keeping the house comfortable.

If the weather is severe at farrowing time, 1 or 2 lighted lanterns hung in the top of either house will make it quite comfortable for the young pigs.

The soil should be graded up to the level of the front of either house so that small pigs may get in and out with ease; also there will be less danger of heavy sows injuring themselves before the pigs are born.

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